

**Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for protecting a wearer's eyes and face from contact with infectious materials  
5 comprising:
  - a flexible frame having an outside surface;
  - at least one guard extending inwardly from the flexible frame, the at least one guard  
configured to abut the wearer's forehead when the apparatus is positioned on the wearer's head;
  - a first mating structure attached along the outside surface of the flexible frame; and
  - 10 a transparent shield having a first portion, the first portion of the transparent shield  
having a second mating structure for removable engagement with the first mating structure.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein
  - the first mating structure comprises a plurality of projections spaced along the outside  
15 surface of the flexible frame; and
  - the second mating structure comprises a plurality of holes along the first portion of the  
transparent shield spaced correspondingly with the projections along the outside surface of the  
frame.
- 20 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein
  - each projection has a head and a body, the head having a diameter, the body having a  
diameter less than the diameter of the head; and
  - the holes have a diameter substantially equal to the diameter of the body of the  
projections, the holes having radial slits extending outwardly, the holes expanding to snap over  
25 the head of the projections.
4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein
  - the plurality of projections and the at least one guard comprise a single unit of molded  
plastic.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein  
the flexible frame comprises steps angled inwardly for a distance forming a gripping area.

5 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein  
the at least one guard comprises a first guard extending inwardly from the flexible frame  
along a first corner, a second guard extending inwardly from the flexible frame along a second  
corner.

10 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein  
the transparent shield comprises a second portion defining a notch for resting on a  
wearer's nose.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein  
15 the transparent shield comprises a polyester material.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
an indicator band disposed along the top portion of the transparent shield for providing a  
gripping surface.

20 10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein  
the transparent shield comprises a front surface and a back surface, the front surface and  
the back surface coated with an anti-fogging material.

25 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein  
the transparent shield is tinted a color selected from the group consisting of red, orange,  
yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet, and gray.

12. A method of assembling protective eyewear comprising:  
30 engaging a first mating structure located on a flexible frame with a second mating  
structure located on a substantially transparent shield.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the method of assembling the protective eyewear further comprises:

the step of engaging includes positioning at least one projection on an outside surface of  
5 the flexible frame coincident to a corresponding at least one mating structure on the substantially transparent shield.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the method of assembling protective eyewear further comprises:

10 replacing the substantially transparent shield by

gripping a indicator band of the substantially transparent shield in assembly with  
the flexible frame;

disengaging the second mating structure of the substantially transparent shield  
from the first mating structure of the flexible frame;

15 gripping an indicator band of a replacement transparent shield; and

engaging the first mating structure of the flexible frame with a second mating  
structure of the replacement transparent shield.

15. A apparatus for protecting a wearer's eyes and face from contact with infectious materials  
20 comprising:

a shielding means for preventing exposure of the wearer's eyes to infectious materials,  
the shielding means having a first mating means;

support means for positioning the apparatus over a wearer's ears and above a wearer's  
forehead, the support means having a second mating means for engaging the first mating means  
25 of the shielding means; and

guard means connected to the support means, the guard means abutting the wearer's  
forehead substantially eliminating exposure to the infectious materials from above the support  
means.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein,

the shielding means further comprises means for reducing the polluting of the shielding means with fingerprints when attaching and removing the shielding means to the flexible frame.

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